

# **2020 Legislative Priorities**

#### HEALTH HB 2632:

**HB 2632: Knock down barriers that prevent former foster youth from keeping their health coverage.** In Arizona, former foster youth unnecessarily lose coverage because of burdensome procedures and paperwork. CAA will work to ensure Arizona does everything it can to keep youth aging out of the foster care system covered.

SB1170, HB2423 & HB2727: Provide Arizona moms and babies comprehensive dental care during pregnancy. Pregnant women are at a higher risk of periodontal disease and cavities, which left untreated can contribute to poor pregnancy outcomes, such as pre-term birth and low birth weight babies. CAA will advocate to include comprehensive dental benefits for pregnant AHCCCS members, which are currently not offered.

**HB2050 & HB2486: Prevent attacks on Arizona's public health.** Arizona is losing crucial community-level protection against disease and illness. CAA will work to increase our immunization coverage rate and will mobilize against further efforts to undermine the public health through anti-vaccination policies.

### **CHILD WELFARE**



**Restore supports to grandparents and other kinship caregivers who step in when parents are unable to care for their children because of challenges such as mental health and homelessness.** Many kinship caregivers who step in to get legal custody or guardianship alleviate the need for Department of Child Services involvement, but struggle with the new financial responsibilities. CAA will advocate to restore the "childonly" Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefit to kinship caregivers that were cut during the Great Recession.

**SB1323: Help abused and neglected children placed with relatives by DCS get the financial help they need.** Bureaucratic barriers work to prevent two-thirds of kinship caregivers from getting the financial help they are eligible for. CAA supports moving this rate to 100% by expediting the application process and making TANF enrollment easier for all kinship families.

## **K-12 EDUCATION**



Shorten Arizona students' wait for new textbooks, technology, and school buses.

Critical district additional assistance funding for schools was cut during the Great Recession and isn't expected to be fully restored until 2023. CAA will advocate to prioritize students this year by using one-time surplus funds to accelerate this badly needed funding.

**HCR2001: Raise the academic performance of English Learner (EL) students by adopting evidence-based dual language instruction in schools.** By repealing the failed English-only policies that have sent Arizona's EL students backwards, Arizona can join other states in smart policy that moves the economy forward. CAA will advocate to refer a repeal of Prop 203 to the ballot.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD



**Provide safe, quality child care options for working parents of young children.** CAA supports the Department of Economic Security's request to spend down \$30M in federal child care funding to bring Arizona's child care reimbursement rates closer to the federally required level, rates that are more reflective of what it actually costs to provide care. CAA will also advocate to enact expenditure authority for new federal funds for child care.

**Closely monitor attempts to spend state dollars on online learning products aimed at preschool-aged children.** Online products that increase screen time raise significant questions among early childhood experts. CAA will work with our partners to ensure Arizona's tax dollars are invested in programs that are proven to work.small business loan application processes.

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